



SUD-OUEST – FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6, 1998  
BALLET

**The Swiss Contradiction**

Associate Conductor of the ONBA, Philippe Béran directs *Giselle* at the Grand-Théâtre.  
A Young Artist who has Energy to Spare

Nothing about him would make you think he is Swiss: not the least accent nor the legendary slowness that is always made fun of. Philippe Béran, 36, hasn't wasted any time; rather you wonder where he finds it. For several years, he managed to successfully combine scientific studies and a high-level musical apprenticeship. Receiving a virtuosity award in clarinet at the conservatoire de Genève, he will also begin a first year at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris. At the same time, in Geneva, he receives the virtuosity award for orchestra direction.

Despite all of that, Philippe Béran managed to get married, he was 24, and to have four children. Today, music occupies all of his time, replacing all of the physics classes he taught for several years. Recently named associate conductor of the ONBA, he arrives in Bordeaux with a specific idea in mind: *"One of my missions at the Opéra de Bordeaux will be to develop concert ideas in order to bring in a new public starting with next season. It will be just as much for the kids as for the adults who don't necessarily have any musical education or are not music lovers."*

Audiences in Bordeaux were introduced to this young conductor last year at an evening of ballet. He directed Theme and Variations by Hindemith, from the *Four Temperaments*: *"It was the first time that I directed a ballet. I have accompanied quite a few film soundtracks, and I find this method of accompaniment in dance. It may not be obvious, but directing dancers is quite a job. It requires extraordinary concentration and above all being able to successfully become aware of the feeling of the moment and analyze it fairly."* He liked it so much after taking on *La Fille Mal Gardée*, Philippe Béran directs *Giselle* for six representations, in a very beautiful production that was presented last year by the Opéra de Bordeaux.

**Tonight and February 9, 10,11 at 8 pm and February 8 at 3 pm and 8 pm at the Grand-Théâtre de Bordeaux. Information: 05.56.48.58.54**  
ROCH BERTRAND

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Michael Kowalewski, a professional translator of French into English, has translated the attached document under contract to 1-800-Translate, an American Translators Association (ATA) corporate membership company. We have examined the document and have found it to be a complete and accurate translation of the original provided to us.

  
Janneth Alfaro, Project Manager

State of New York, County of New York  
Sworn to me before me this 14th day of Oct, 2007

  
Fei-Xue Qian, Notary Public  
Fei-Xue Qian  
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Qualified in New York County  
Commission Expires April 23, 2011